

QA-549

Martin Jones Store

Chester, Queen Anne's County

Constructed ca. 1875

Privately owned

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Martin Jones Store occupies the southeast corner of Main Street and Dominion Road in the village of Chester, Kent Island, Queen Anne's County. The property consists of a ca. 1875 combination house and store, a ca. 1875 barn that was enlarged and converted to an auto repair shop during the 1930s, and a non-contributing trailer. The 2-story house-store is constructed of wood frame with multiple cross gables, porches, and additions. The barn-shop consists of a 1-story, side-gable main block and a full-width cross-gable addition. Both buildings are deteriorated and could only be accessed from the exterior.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Martin Jones Store was constructed ca. 1875 at one of the main intersections in Chester. Operated by Lavinia and Martin Jones, the sister and brother-in-law of Senator James E. Kirwan, it was part of a network of small general stores that served Kent Islanders prior to construction of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and the development of shopping centers in the 1950s.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-549

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Martin Jones Store (preferred)
other Jack's Place, Gardner Store

2. Location

street and number 1800 Main Street not for publication
city, town Chester vicinity
county Queen Anne's

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Gardner Group, LLC
street and number P.O. Box 256 telephone (410) 643-5629
city, town Chester state MD zip code 21619

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County Circuit Court liber SM 1242 folio 662
city, town Centreville tax map 57 tax parcel 29 tax ID number 04-019016

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Contributing 2
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Noncontributing 1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	Contributing 0
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	Noncontributing 0 sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	Contributing 0
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	Noncontributing 0 structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	Contributing 0
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	Noncontributing 0 objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	Contributing 2
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	Noncontributing 1 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

Inventory No. QA-549

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Martin Jones Store occupies the southeast corner of Main Street and Dominion Road in the village of Chester, Kent Island, Queen Anne's County. The property consists of a ca. 1875 combination house and store, a ca. 1875 barn that was enlarged and converted to an auto repair shop during the 1930s, and a non-contributing trailer. The house-store stands at an angle facing northwest toward the corner. Gas pumps once stood in the gravel area in front of the house-store. The barn-shop stands at the rear of the lot along Dominion Road. The trailer stands next to the barn-shop.

The house-store is an L-shaped building consisting of a 2-story, 3-bay, side gable wing that stands flush with a 2-story, 2-bay, front-gable wing. The house-store has a brick foundation, asbestos shingle over wood weatherboard, and rolled asphalt covering a shake roof. The side gable wing has center cross gables. The cornice is boxed with returns on the gable ends. Interior brick chimneys stand in the southwest end of the side-gable wing and the center and southeast ends of the front-gable wing. The front façade faces northwest. The front entrance into the side gable wing is not visible due to a boarded over porch. The front entrance into the front-gable wing consists of a half-glass door (now boarded over) with a 2-light transom and a plain surround. Most window openings have been boarded over. A few wood windows remain visible with 2/2 sash on the side gable wing and 6/6 sash on the front gable wing. The side gable wing has a heavily altered front porch consisting of concrete block knee walls and posts, supporting a standing-seam metal shed roof with a cross gable. This porch has been completely boarded over. The porch on the front gable wing has asbestos siding over the knee walls, simple square posts, and a rolled asphalt and shake shed roof with a cross gable. There are 1-story, wood-frame, shed-roof additions on the southeast (rear) elevation of the side gable wing and the southwest elevation of the front gable wing. The owner of the property did not allow interior access to the house-store due to safety concerns.

The barn-shop consists of a 1-story, side gable main block and a full-width cross gable addition that extends to the rear. The building has rolled asphalt siding over wood weatherboard and a standing seam metal roof with an open cornice. A brick chimney stands on the west gable end of the main block. There are large garage bays with overhead rolling doors on the front (north) and rear (south) elevations. The south elevation also has a pedestrian entry with a recent door. Two- and 6-light wood windows light the interior. The interior was visible through a broken window and consists of a single large, unfinished space with a concrete floor.

Both buildings are deteriorated but intact. The house-store has one heavily altered porch, but its other original features and materials remain visible under more recent materials. The barn-shop suffers from general deterioration but its mid-20th century form remains intact.

8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-549

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates ca. 1875 (construction), 1936 (sale to John A. Gardner, Sr.) **Architect/Builder** unknown

Construction dates ca. 1875

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Martin Jones Store was constructed ca. 1875 at one of the main intersections in Chester. Operated by Lavinia and Martin Jones, the sister and brother-in-law of Senator James E. Kirwan, it was part of a network of small general stores that served Kent Islanders prior to construction of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and the development of shopping centers in the 1950s.

RESOURCE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

Martin L. Jones was born in Dorchester County ca. 1838 and moved to Kent Island in 1851.¹ Sophia Lavinia Kirwan Jones was born in Baltimore ca. 1844 and was the sister of Senator James E. Kirwan (see Kirwan House and Store, QA-550). Martin Jones appears in the 1870 census as an oysterman on Kent Island along with Lavinia Jones and a sixteen-year-old William Jones (perhaps a younger sibling). Martin Jones acquired the land on which the store stands from Hiram Gardner in 1874. The Martin Jones Store appears on the 1877 Lake, Griffing, & Stevenson Map along with a business listing describing Jones as a "Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Groceries, &c." The 1880 census lists Jones as a country storekeeper. Further information about the Jones' and their store is scarce. Lavinia Jones appears in the 1910, 1920, and 1930 censuses as a widow living in the household of her brother, James E. Kirwan.²

In 1936, John A. Gardner, Sr. acquired the property from the estate of Lavinia Jones. John A. Gardner Sr. transferred the property to John A. Gardner Jr., who ran the business from the beginning, in 1946. The Kent Island Heritage Society provides the following summary of the Gardners' business:

John A. "Jack" Gardner opened Jack's Place in 1933 [perhaps leasing the property from Lavinia Jones] on the corner of Dominion Road and Route 18 as a hardware and automotive supply store. Gardner also sold hunting, fishing, and marine supplies, and had an auto repair and welding business next to the store [in the barn]. He ran the store with his wife Doris until it closed in 1967. Jack is the son of John A. Gardner, Sr., who owned Gardner's Store in Grasonville.³

The property is still owned by the Gardner family but is currently vacant.

The Martin Jones Store was part of a network of small general stores that served Kent Islanders. The stores were clustered in villages and scattered along rural roads. In addition to general merchandise, many stores had specialties such as yard goods (Molly Benton's Store), paint and wallpaper (Price & Son), or building supplies (Kirwan's Store).⁴ Construction of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge in

¹ List of patrons in Lake, Griffing, & Stevenson.

² The 1890 census burned, and the Jones' could not be located in the 1900 census.

³ Kent Island Heritage Society Vertical Files. "Stores." Queen Anne's County Free Library – Stevensville Branch.

⁴ Janet Freedman, *Kent Island: The Land that Once Was Eden*, 82-83.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-549

Martin Jones Store
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

1952 opened Kent Island to development, and the general stores faced stiff competition from modern shopping centers such as the Kent Island Shopping Center (1953). The general stores gradually closed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. QA-549

Freedman, Janet. *Kent Island: The Land that Once Was Eden*. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 2002.

Kent Island Heritage Society Vertical Files. "Stores." Queen Anne's County Free Library – Stevensville Branch.

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson. *An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne Counties, Maryland*. Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson, 1877.

Queen Anne's County Land Records: Liber ASG 13, folio 74; Liber WHC 3A, folio 472, Liber WAG 1, folio 336.

United States Census Manuscripts of 1870, 1880, 1910, 1920, and 1930.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1 acre
Acreage of historical setting unknown
Quadrangle name Kent Island

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Martin Jones Store is located on Parcel 29 of Queen Anne's County Tax Map 57. The parcel is bounded on the north by Main Street, on the east and south by adjacent parcels, and on the west by Dominion Road. The parcel encompasses one acre and comprises all land still associated with the Martin Jones Store.

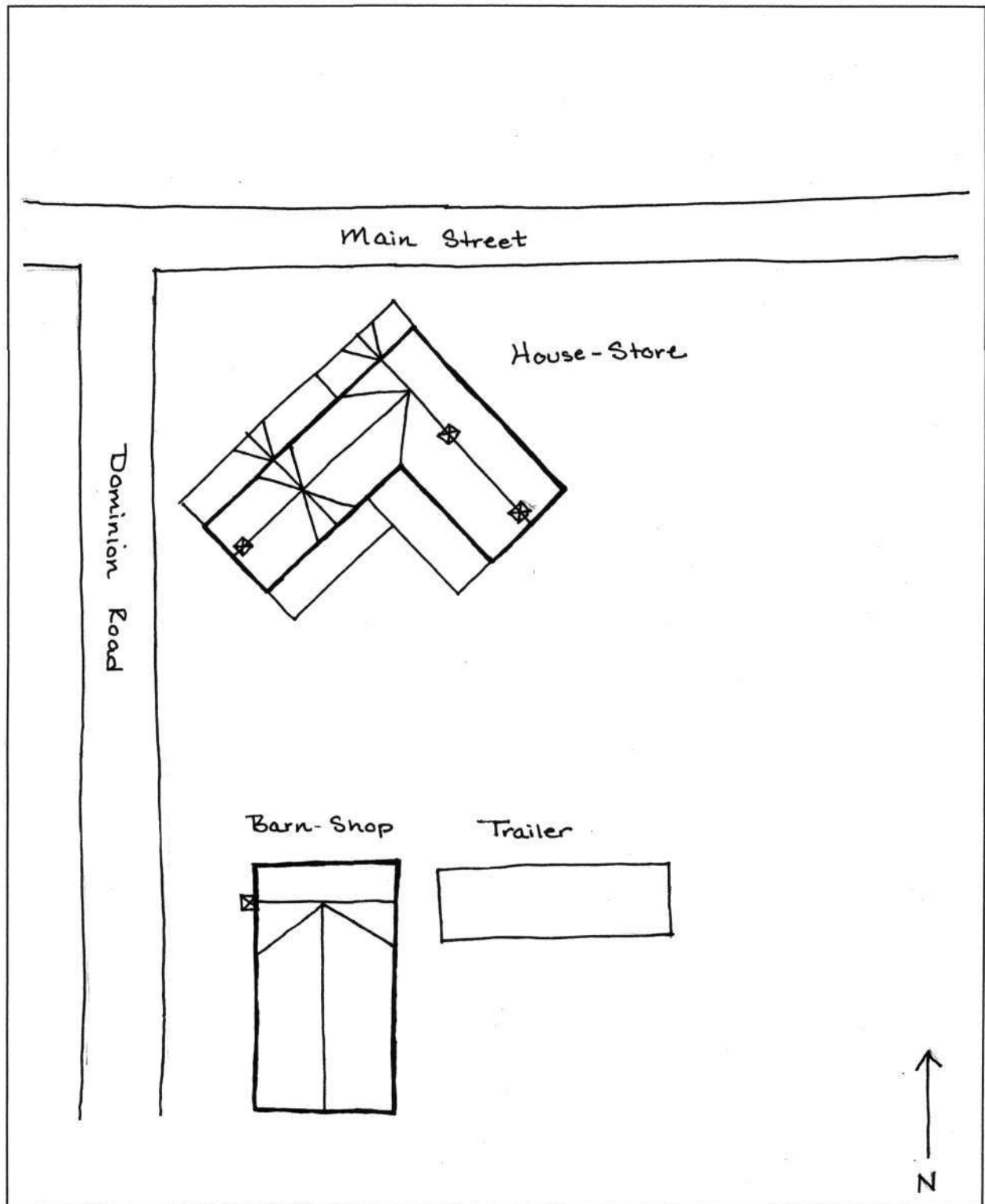
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Julie Darsie		
organization	Betty Bird & Associates LLC	date	May 2005
street & number	2607 24 th St., NW, Suite 3	telephone	(202) 588-9033
city or town	Washington, D.C.	state	N/A

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



Site Plan
QA-549
Martin Jones Store
Chester, Queen Anne's County, Maryland



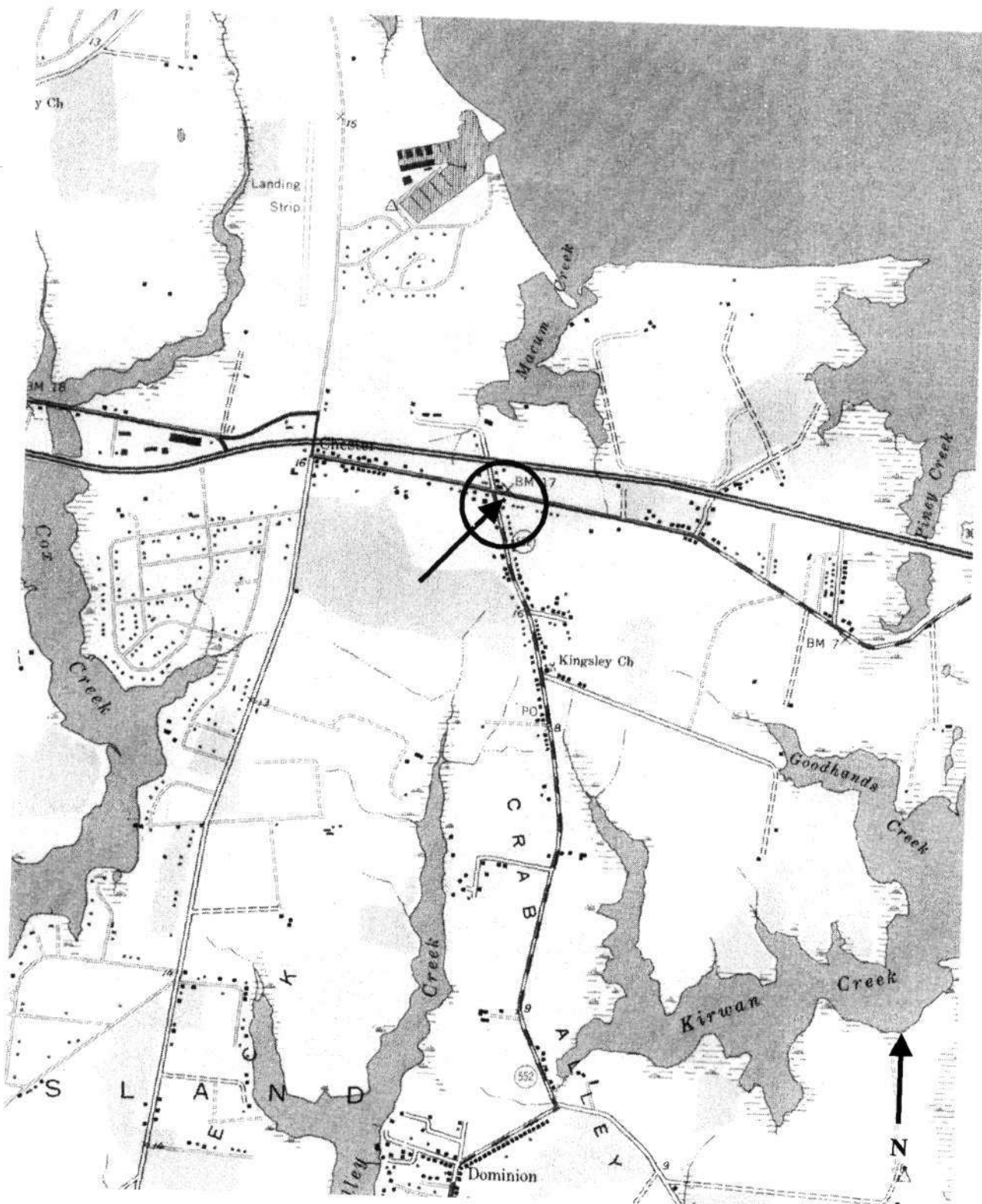
Ca. 1946 photograph, when store was known as "Jack's Place"

QA-549

Martin Jones Store

Chester, Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Source: Kent Island Heritage Society



QA-549
Martin Jones Store
Chester, Queen Anne's County, Maryland
Kent Island Quadrangle (1:24,000)



GA-549

Martin Jones Store

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

May 2005

MD SHPO

View from north showing northeast (left) and northwest
(right) elevations,

1 of 7

0595 -NNNN 201 11 510< >



QA-549

Martin Jones Store

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

May 2005

MD SHPO

View from east showing northeast (right) and southeast
(left) elevations. Trailer and barn-shop on far left.

2 of 7

5036 11 104 111111 104 11 5036



QA-549

Martin Jones Store

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

May 2005

MD SHPO

View from south showing southeast and southwest elevations

3 of 7

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COMMERCIAL
LAND LEASE
1+/-
ACRE
RE/MAX
KEVIN DEY
927-6163

QA-549

Martin Jones Store

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

May 2005

MD SHPO

View from west showing southwest (right) and northwest
(left) elevations.

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QA-549

Martin Jones Store

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

May 2005

MD SHPO

Barn-shed from northwest, showing north and
west elevations

5 of 7

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QA-549

Martin Jones Store

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

May 2005

MD SHPO

Barn - shop from southeast, showing south and
east elevations.

6 of 7

9299 - 111111 101 11 0201 >



QA-549

Martin Jones Store

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

May 2005

MO 5490

Barn - Shop: View to north showing interior
7 of 7

2024 11 106 NININ-5636